brivo®

ACCESS CONTROL
SECURITY BEST PRACTICES IN THE PANDEMIC ERA

Introduction

These are extraordinary times. Never before have we seen a mass switch from commuting to the office to working from home, the shut-down of businesses to stop a pandemic, and a large unknown for the future. But one thing is certain, this will not last forever and we will adjust to a new normal. People will get back to work and when they do, they will need new security protocols. It's during these unexpected times that we are forced to evaluate our current security practices and it helps to review best practices from industry experts in the process.

Right now, the guidance on social distancing dictates that workers should move to remote environments and personal contact needs to be curtailed. This changes your physical security needs. You may need to limit access to your building or close your location all together. At the same time, the fear of spreading germs and being in contact with pathogens is on everyone's mind.

What happens when social distancing protocols have ended and it's time to go back to the office? It is likely the way you monitor access for your employees, visitors, and others will need to change significantly. Now is the right time to think about your current and future access control technology environment.

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Best Practice 1
Assess Who Has Access to Your Locations

If you had to close or curtail access to your business location, there are a few things you need to think about. Take time to look at your current access logs and ask yourself some questions. Are there former employees that need to be removed from your credentialed user list? Have you seen any access when there shouldn't be? Do you need to grant access to someone new like maintenance or inspection personnel?

If exposure happened at your facility, could you use your access control system to determine who was on-site and who they might have been in contact with? Access control reports can show who was on-site and what visitors might have been on location as well. Does your current system provide that kind of critical information?

Take time to consider who needs access today, remove those who do not, and monitor if unauthorized people are trying to gain access. Recent events prove that there is a need for systems that provide information on who is in and around your facility.

What happens when social distancing protocols have ended and it's time to go back to the office?

Best Practice 2
Consider Remote Access Management

On-premise systems always run the risk of going down. Then someone has to go to the physical location and reboot the server. With cloud-based access control, you can manage your security remotely from any mobile device. If you've been reluctant to evaluate a cloud-based physical security platform, now is the perfect time to do so.

If you have an access control system but you have not logged in for a while, you may find you need to reset passwords or update firmware. Can you do this remotely or do you need to be on-site to perform these functions? If you had a security platform hosted in the cloud that functions from any device, you can make the necessary changes to your building access without being on-site. You can change who has access to the building, turning it off for non-essential employees but continue to allow maintenance access. You can also schedule exceptions, allowing different people access at different times for different locations to comply with social distancing and other preventative measures. Cloud-based access control platforms are exponentially growing in the market because they provide seamless remote access and management that outdated on-premise security systems don't allow.

Can you remotely manage your access control system, or do you need to be on-site to perform functions like updating passwords or firmware?

Best Practice 3
Keep Eyes on Your Facilities with Video

Cloud-based access control also enables you to shut down access for all employees and monitor your facility through video surveillance. Even if you can't physically access your location, it's peace of mind to know you can keep eyes on the space as needed. Integrated access control and video surveillance also makes it easy to link access events with security footage. If an alert for an open door or failed access event pops up, it's easy to see exactly what happened at that door at that time. If an event requires emergency action, there is an ability to revoke access to certain users immediately from wherever you are.
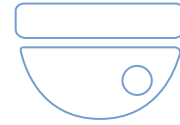
Best Practice 4
Implement Mobile Solutions

With the fear of spreading germs through contact, we need to go hands-off as much as we can. That means touching fewer doors, elevators and surfaces that can carry germs. Everyone carries a mobile phone these days. Instead of having key cards that get lost, forgotten, stolen, or passed from one person to another, consider using mobile credentials.

When a building needs added proof of identity for security, the built-in biometric authentication like FaceID and fingerprint authentication on smartphones is an additional layer of security that your company can count on.

Convert to Cloud-Based Access Control

You might have been a doubter before but now is the time to get on the bandwagon. Services built with a cloud infrastructure on remote platforms can keep businesses running and continuity in place when unexpected emergencies arise. Subscription security means your access control monitoring and management is available remotely at any time.

No doubt, these are extraordinary times but one thing you can count on is continued change. When the world does get back to work, we will need new security strategies to keep us all safe. Now is the right time to evaluate your normal security practices, understand your options to better secure your buildings, people and reputation, and protect against the unexpected.

About Brivo

Brivo keeps the most important things safe. Our integrated security platform provides the best cloud-based access control technology to deliver simply better security. With 20 million users worldwide, it's clearly the choice of facility managers, property managers, security leaders and business owners everywhere.

Request a demo of the Brivo platform and speak with a security expert about your building needs.

Request demo

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